

# The Vinton Chronicles

September/October 2009  
Volume 1, Issue 1

Principal James E. Palmer

## Principal's News



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### Upcoming Events

- ◆ School Picture Day Sept 21st
- ◆ Fire Safety Prevention Day October 5<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Mobile Dentist October 30<sup>th</sup>

Welcome to the 2009/2010 year at Vinton School. It is our sincere pleasure to work with you to make this a fantastic year for your family. If you are new to our school community, please don't hesitate to contact us if there is anything we can help with as you become more familiar with the "Vinton Family." Here are a few items as we begin the year...

- **Do you Q-Notify?** Vinton School uses the Q-Notify Messaging Service to enhance communication with families **via e-mail** and cell phone or pager **text messaging**. You can sign-up to receive free notices from Vinton School informing you of announcements about school events and groups. Simply go to Vinton School's website and follow the link or, call us for help.
- **The Vinton Chronicle** - This newsletter is designed to help you. Your feedback is most welcome. Please do not hesitate to call or e-mail your suggestions to us.
- **What Happened In School Today?** - Should you need additional information about the school calendar, your child's curriculum and instruction, or PTA events, please check the Vinton website, contact your child's teacher, or feel free to give me a call.
- **Bus Safety Is Job One!** - Please reinforce our three simple bus behavior rules with your child. They are: 1) Stay in your seat, 2) Talk quietly, 3) Listen to the driver.
- **Label Everything!** - Every year our Lost & Found wagon piles up and grows toward the ceiling. Please label your child's sweaters, jackets, mittens and lunch boxes/bags and we'll do our best to keep the wagon empty.
- **Step Up!** - We have the best PTA in the world, but we always need more help. Please get involved.
- **Got a Concern?** Please call me at 423-3086, extension 208 (voicemail is 24/7) or e-mail me at [palmerje@mansfieldct.org](mailto:palmerje@mansfieldct.org). Thanks for your support...Have a wonderful year.

## Hola from Señora Zugarazo

We have started the year off running. Students in grades 2 through 4 have been practicing our classroom passwords. These passwords help us talk about items in the class and keep us using Spanish throughout the class. I hope your child(ren) have shared and played some of these games with you.

A Spanish newsletter will be coming home shortly after our Open House. These will be sent out monthly with information and vocabulary that we have studied throughout the month. Please use these updates to ask your

child(ren) about Spanish class.

Also, our district's elementary school Spanish teachers are working on a Wiki where students will be able to access links to practice and explore many other exciting activities. We will post song lyrics and supplementary materials for you and your child(ren) to access and use for practice. There will be a link located on the home page in lieu of my blog site. Be on the look-out for it starting in October/November. *Gracias!*

## Kindergarten News

Ms. Rudge, Mrs. Terry, Mr. Toomey

Our year started with a school-wide search for the *Gingerbread Baby* (Jan Brett), which concluded by finding some yummy cookies in Dr. Palmer's office!

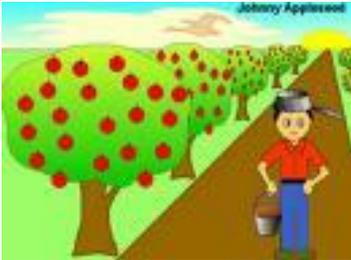
We are also learning to be young scientists by observing the life cycle of a butterfly by watching caterpillars first turn into chrysalises and then into Monarch butterflies.

Kindergartners are busy learning about what it means to be part of the Vinton

school family and how we can work together cooperatively.

In late October we will take an exciting field trip to Hurst Farm where we will have the opportunity to see and experience a real life working farm.

In anticipation of beautiful springtime flowers, kindergartners are already working in our garden. We each will be planting a bulb which we will see blossom in the Spring.



*Celebrating Johnny Appleseed Day in Grade 1.*

## First Grade News

Mrs. Prince-Warinsky, Ms. Sparks

**It's great to be back!**

We have been busy meeting new friends, learning classroom routines and practicing **The Golden Rule** in first grade.

In September, we will be celebrating Johnny Appleseed Day. We will make

paper pots for our heads, learn a new poem, and even make applesauce.

In October, we will visit the Children's Museum in West Hartford.

Stay tuned for additional information on that exciting trip!

***We sure are off to a great start!***

## Second Grade News

Mrs. Bailey, Mrs. Harbec, Mrs. LeFevre

The second grade classes have been busy getting to know each other. We are working on repeating and growing patterns in math and the life cycle of butterflies during our thematic study time.

All students will be working with Ms. Barrow in Enrichment and Senora Zugarazo on a combined monarch project.

Monarch Butterfly



*If you'd like to attract monarch butterflies to your yard, try planting its main source of food, milkweeds.*

## Book Room Volunteers Needed

Did you know that Vinton School has a book room with multiple copies of hundreds of books that teachers and students use for reading lessons?

We are in need of a few individuals to help return and organize the bags of books after classrooms are finished with them.

All it would take is a few minutes every week or two on a flexible schedule. A quick training will be provided.

If you are interested, please contact Grade 2 teacher, Deb Bailey at (860) 423-3086, extension 105 or via email at [deb.bailey@mansfieldct.org](mailto:deb.bailey@mansfieldct.org).

## Third Grade News

Mrs. Csere, Mrs. Keenan, Ms. Welch

Grade 3 has jumped right into the school year learning cursive, among other things. The students' handwriting is very impressive, and they seem to enjoy learning their lower case letters. It won't be long before they're writing everything in cursive!

In math, we are working on learning our addition strategies such as neighbor facts, fast nines and make tens. For fun, the students have been able to use technology to "bronc ride" while solving addition facts with sums from 0 to 18 in Wild West Math.

In Social Studies the students have been

working on map and globe skills including reading map keys, the compass rose, intermediate directions, and measuring distance using the map scale.

Shortly the students will begin their first unit on animal adaptations which will be kicked off with our guest ornithologist, Margaret Rubega. In addition to learning about the physicality of owls the students will be dissecting owl pellets.

All in all we are off to a good start and we are looking forward to an awesome year!



*Guest Ornithologist  
Ms. Rubega will visit  
Grade 3 students to  
talk about owls*

## Grade 4 News

Mrs. DeLoreto, Mrs. Hain, Mrs. Phelps

In addition to welcoming our new fourth graders and their families, we welcome Mrs. DeLoreto to the fourth grade team. We're off to a good start learning new routines and expectations.

For the next six weeks, we'll be piloting a new spelling program. We are in year two of the Bridges math program and it's going well. In Science, we are

studying Earth History and Dynamics. The fourth graders will be exploring the components of soil and learning about the effects of weathering and erosion.

We look forward to working with you and your children this year!

## Preschool News

Mrs. Rameaka

The preschool children have adjusted well to their first school experience and are excited about participating in all of the daily activities.

It's wonderful to see the enthusiasm the children have for school and for being together.

## Getting to know Our School Psychologist, Mrs. Yeager

Welcome to the new school year! This is my twenty-first year as Vinton's School Psychologist. I love it here!

My duties at Vinton vary from day to day and include working with students, parents, staff and outside agencies. I also provide individual, small group and whole class support both within and outside of the classroom; conduct

observations; evaluate student needs; and a sundry of other duties (jump rope, anyone?)

If you would like to know more specifically about what I do or have a concern about your child, please stop by, call me at (860) 423-3086 extension 136, or contact me via email at: [barb.yeager@mansfieldct.org](mailto:barb.yeager@mansfieldct.org).



## Vinton's Golden Rule:

Treat others the way you want to be treated!



Annie E. Vinton Elementary  
306 Stafford Rd  
Mansfield Center, CT 06250

Phone:  
(860) 423-3086

We're on the Web!  
[mansfieldct.org/schools/vinton](http://mansfieldct.org/schools/vinton)

## Library Notes

Mrs. Parda

The beginning of the school year marks the end of our annual Summer Reading program (the Governor's Reading Challenge). We will be having our Summer Reading celebration on September 25<sup>th</sup> for those children who have returned their summer reading lists.

Thank you to all the families who encouraged their children to read and participate in the program.

Also, a big thank you to all those who visited me on the Bus during our "Books on the Bus" summer program! I enjoyed seeing all of you and getting books into your children's hands in a different way!

Looking forward in the library... the fourth graders are beginning to read the 2010 Nutmeg Award Nominees and all other grades will be enjoying fun stories and working on learning all about a library and how it works!

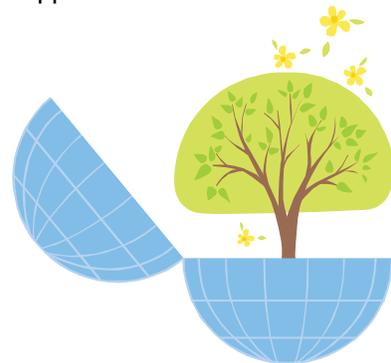
## Kindergarten Recycling Program

The kindergarten classes are working together with all the children at Annie E. Vinton to collect and recycle several different types of containers this year. A company called TerraCycle collects these empty packages and recycles them to make new products or uses them for new purposes.

The packages we are collecting are Stonyfield & Dannon yogurt containers, Capri-Sun & Honest Kids juice pouches, and Nabisco cookie wrappers.

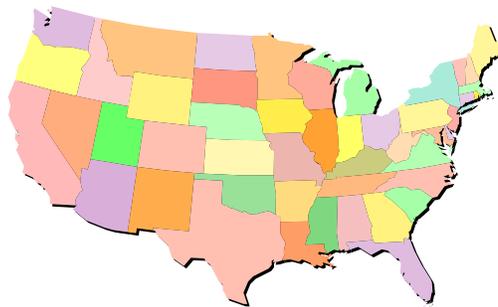
Each item we collect will earn either \$.02 or \$.05 for our school.

The kindergarten classes will vote at the end of the year to decide whether the money collected will go toward either books for our library or helping to beautify our school. Thanks for your support!



We have welcomed several new families to the "Vinton family" this year. Can you guess who traveled the farthest to get here?

- A. Edmond, Oklahoma
- B. Coeur d'Alene, Idaho



### Remember

No School for students on  
Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup>  
(Columbus Day holiday)  
and  
Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>  
(Professional Development).